

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on a strategic assessment of U.S.-Russian relations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 2 p.m. to hold a nomination hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building, in order to conduct an oversight hearing on law enforcement in Indian country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Civil Rights Division Oversight" on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226. Witness list:

Panel I: Wan Kim, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Wade Henderson, President and CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Washington, DC.

Brian Landsberg, Professor, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, Sacramento, CA.

Helen Norton, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD.

Roger Clegg, President and General Counsel, Center for Equal Opportunity, Falls Church, VA.

Robert N. Driscoll, Partner, Alston & Bird LLP, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet in order to conduct a markup hearing on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Room 226.

Agenda

I. Committee Authorization: Authorization of Subpoenas in Connection with Investigation of Legal Basis for Warrantless Wiretap Program.

II. Bills: S. 1145, Patent Reform Act of 2007 (Leahy, Hatch, Schumer, Cornyn, Whitehouse).

III. Nominations: Leslie Southwick to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

IV. Resolutions: S. Res. 230, Designating July as National Teen Safe Driver Month (Isakson); S. Res. 235, Designating July 1, 2007, as "National Boating Day" (Whitehouse, Vitter); S. Res. 225, Designating the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month" (Biden, Grassley).

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a roundtable entitled "SBA Reauthorization: Small Business Venture Capital Programs," on Thursday, June 21, 2007, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 21, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet today, Thursday, June 21, 2007 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Russell 325 for the purpose of conducting a hearing. The hearing will be concerning: America's farming population.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that Mark Wenzel, a fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted the privileges of the floor during the pendency of H.R. 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110-3

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on June 21, 2007, by the President of the United States: Tax Convention with Belgium, Treaty Document No. 110-3.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying Protocol, signed on November 27, 2006, at Brussels (the "proposed Treaty"). The proposed Treaty will replace the existing income tax treaty between the two countries that was concluded in 1970 and amended by protocol in 1987. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the proposed Treaty.

The proposed Treaty eliminates the withholding tax on certain cross-border dividend payments, including dividend payments to pension funds. The proposed Treaty also provides for mandatory arbitration of certain cases brought before the competent authorities. This provision is only the second of its kind in a proposed U.S. tax treaty. In addition, the proposed Treaty includes provisions, consistent with current U.S. tax-treaty policy, that are designed to prevent so-called treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 21, 2007.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 1650

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1650 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2366

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2366 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2366) to reauthorize the veterans entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.